

The God Questions (2 of 4)
“Is The Bible True?”
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
April 16, 2023

“Jesus, I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.” **Matthew 5:18 (NIV)**

Big Idea: To understand the Bible can be trusted because it is God-breathed truth and to take steps to read it and put it into practice.

“But even more blessed are all who **hear** the word of God and put it into **practice**.”
Luke 11:28 (NLT2) Remember Verse

We Can Trust The Bible Because:

1. It Contains A Unified Single Message Of The Redemption Of Mankind By Jesus

The Unity of the Bible

- ✓ The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years
- ✓ 66 Books By 40 authors (Kings to peasants)
- ✓ In 3 different languages, from 3 different continents
- ✓ Telling **one story**. God’s salvation of men through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus

Comparison:

- ✓ The Book of Mormon –single translated by Joseph Smith 1827
- ✓ The Qu’ran –writings and records of one man Muhammad
- ✓ The Hindu writings –stories of things that happened in the celestial realms
- ✓ Buddhism –Founder Siddhartha Guatama Known As Buddha 600B.C.

Revelation: God chose to reveal His nature & will

“And so I will show my **greatness** and my **holiness**, and I will **make myself known** in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.” **Ezekiel 38:23 (NIV)**

Inspiration: God worked in the hearts of human writers

“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men **spoke from God** as they were carried along by the **Holy Spirit**.”

2 Peter 1:20-21 (NIV)

Illumination: The Holy Spirit works in the heart of the readers

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT2)

2. It Is An Accurate Historical Book

<u>Author:</u>	<u>When Written:</u>	<u>Earliest Copy:</u>	<u>Time Span:</u>	<u># copies:</u>
Caesar	100- 44 BC	AD 900	1,000 years	10
Aristotle	450-385 BC	AD 900	1,400 years	49
New Testament	40-100 AD	AD 125	50 years	5,600

Dead Sea Scrolls: 800 manuscripts of O.T. found dating 1000 years earlier with only 5%+/-
Archeology Confirms: Events, people, places and dates are historically accurate.

- **Prophecy Proves God Oversaw The Writings Of The Bible**

“Remember the former things, those of long ago; **I am God**, and there is no other; I am God, and **there is none like me**. I **make known the end from the beginning**, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: **My purpose will stand**, and I will do all that I please.” **Isaiah 46:9-10 (NIV)**

Daniel 7:6, 8:5–8, 11:2–4 -The Rise & Fall of Four Empires + Alexander the Great

Ezekiel 26:4 (NIV) “They will destroy the walls of Tyre and pull down her towers; I will scrape away her rubble and make her a bare rock.” **The Destruction of Tyre (200 yrs.)**

Israel - A Desolate Desert. Deuteronomy 29:23-25

Israel born in one day. Ezekiel 37:21; Isaiah 66:8

Israel will prosper. Ezekiel 38:12-12.

Israel will be invincible. Zechariah 12:3-9

The Bible gives 108 specific prophecies about the coming Savior of the world.

- **Jesus Said The Bible Came From God**

- He believed in the **Prophets** (Matthew 22:40, 24:15)
- He believed in **Noah** (Luke 17:26)
- He believed in **Adam and Eve** (Matthew 19:4)
- He Believed in **Sodom and Gomorrah** (Matthew 10:15)
- He believed in **Jonah** being swallowed by a fish. (Matthew 12:40)

3. Our Faith Is Based Upon A Specific Message From The Bible

“**By this gospel you are saved**, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures**, ⁴ that He was **buried**, that He was **raised** on the third day **according to the Scriptures**, ⁵ and that He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are **still living**, though some have fallen asleep.” **1 Corinthians 15:2-6 (NIV)**

➤ If the Bible is true, then what implication does that mean for you?

My next right step, I will:

[] Review the sermon notes between Sundays

[] Sign up for church Partnership Class - April 30

[] Sign up for Believer’s Baptism - May 7, 2023

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[This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss.]

Open your group with a prayer.

Discussion Starter: What is one of your favorite Bible verses? Why?

The Bible is not only the first printed book, but also the most translated, sold and read book of all time. God himself has breathed his very words through human hands onto scrolls, papyrus, paper, and electronic media. Although it took over 1500 years, 40 authors from diverse backgrounds and lifestyles, and three languages to write, it contains a unified single message: the redemption of mankind by Jesus. Jesus himself confirms the message of the Bible.

We also know that the Bible is inspired, infallible, and inerrant. You can trust the Bible because: It is historically accurate, it is scientifically accurate, it is prophetically accurate, it is thematically unified, it is confirmed by Jesus, it has survived all attacks, and it has transforming power.

Read Psalm 12:6 & Ezekiel 38:23

God took great care to preserve his words and protect the Bible from eradication. Why does this passage make you feel confident about the trustworthiness of the Bible?

How can the purity of the Bible and its unified message improve our relationship with God?

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Knowing the care God put into protecting the Bible and maintaining its message, discuss in your group how its truth can motivate you to expand your biblical knowledge.

Read Luke 11:28

Jesus believed the Bible was true and commanded us to trust his word. What does the above verse say we are to do once we hear the word of God?

Christ came to bring God's message of salvation to people who have lost hope. How does putting the word of God into practice help you stop being a slave to your own desires?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:2-6

Who wrote this passage? How does this confirm the power of the gospel?

What are the main points of the gospel?

How would you explain the importance of Christ's resurrection to a non-believer?

Why do you think Paul went into such details of who saw Jesus after he was resurrected?

Going Deeper: Optional**Read Romans 12:1-2****Read Colossians 3:16-17**

What is one area in your life the Holy Spirit may be prompting you to change.

What action steps are necessary?

How can we help each other in the process?

What specific things can we do to transform our minds?

Is there an attitude you need to change?

Close in Prayer: Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.